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## Lonely

Jo-Ann Ledger  
*College of DuPage*

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SESTINA, GREAT AUNT KATE

As a child, I watched her knitting,  
 Using thumbs and stubs of index fingers. Screaming  
 Children grew quiet at this sight. Kate  
 Waited, knowing they would ask the reason  
 For her missing fingers. She told each child  
 The truth, but never mentioned her journey across the sea.

But, on quiet nights, while knitting, she was haunted by the reason  
 For her silence: cavalry horses screaming on a burning ship at night; the child  
 Clinging tightly to his mother, Kate, as subs stalked their convoy across the deadly sea.

— Sandra Penrose

LONELY

The favorite bear  
 loved  
 dearly  
 hugged  
 into near  
 non-existence  
 and  
 missing  
 an eye.  
 Overlooked  
 in the adult bustle  
 of leaving.  
 Now sleeping  
 on a plane seat  
 on the other side of the earth.

— Jo-Ann Ledger